

Message Text

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53
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W
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O 261120Z OCT 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4118
INFO ACTOBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 2727
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3245

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS EG IS
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY

REF: DAO TEL AVIV 1965 OCT 73M

1. REFTEL DESCIRBES ISOLATION OF EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. AT SAME TIME IT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS WHICH HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON US POLICY IN AREA.

2. PRIMARY QUESTION IS WHETHER ISRAEL INTENDS TO DESTROY THIRD ARMY AND THEREBY REGAIN CONTROL OF AREA IT OCCUPIES TO EAST OF CANAL. IT MAY NOT. NEVERTHELESS, ZEIRA'S STATEMENT ABOUT SHOOTING DOWN ANY AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTERS LANDING OR TAKING OFF FROM THIRD ARMY AREA, AND HIS INFO THAT IDF HAS CUT WATER PIPELINES SAME AREA, SUGGESTS THAT ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO FORCE THIRD ARMY TO SURRENDER OR TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER BREAKOUT WHICH IDF WOULD THEN USE TO CRUSH IT.

3. ASIDE FROM IMPLICATIONS OF PRESENT SITUATION FOR CEASE-FIRE, DESTRUCTION OR SURRENDER OF THIRD ARMY COULD WELL IMPOSE ON EGYPT A MENTALITY OF DEFEAT SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH

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HAS HELD IT FROM NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FOR THE PAST SIX AND A HALF YEARS. IT WILL, MOREOVER, PLACE MORE PRESSURE ON SADAT'S PERSONAL POSITION.

SMITH

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICIES, WATER, HELICOPTERS, PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO03245
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750014-1826
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqceeny.tel
Line Count: 57
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: DAO TEL AVIV 1965 OCT 73M
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY
TAGS: MOPS, EG, IS
To: STATE INFO ACTOBASSY AMMAN
BEIRUT
TEL AVIV
USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005